

Southwest Region Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY06 and FY07) and Accomplishments (FY05 and FY06)

	Action Item	Status/Specific Accomplishments 2005	Status/Specific Accomplishments 2006	Status/Specific Accomplishments 2007	How Progress Will Be Measured and/or monitored	Milestone (Outcome)
A. Standardization and enhancement of bycatch reporting methodologies, including data collection and monitoring						
A1a	The CPS FMP should be amended to explicitly establish a standardized reporting methodology	Pilot at-sea-observer program was started in July 2004 to begin to establish ways to better assess bycatch in the fishery	Continue at-sea-observer program	Evaluate possibility of amending CPS FMP	Review by Pacific Fishery Management Council and NMFS	Establish standardized methodology in the FMP capable of reporting precise and accurate bycatch estimates
A1b	A pilot at-sea-observer program in California to supplement and confirm the bycatch assessments derived from dock-side sampling conducted by the State of California should be a component of a standardized reporting methodology	Pilot at-sea-observer program was started in July 2004. - A report describing the program as well as compiled observed bycatch data was given to the Pacific Fishery Management Council at its November 2005 meeting.	Continue at-sea-observer program. -Coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game so that some of the same vessels that are observed at-sea are also sampled dock-side. -Receive recommendations from the Pacific Fishery Management Council on developing a CPS observer protocol plan	Implement recommendations if any	Evaluating bycatch data collected	Enhance bycatch estimates

A2	NMFS should continue its efforts, through its support of the IATTC and international agreements, to ensure that bycatch by U.S. and other Nations flag vessels is accurately reported.	A. Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch (extended until Jan. 2007). B. Resolution on the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. C. Resolution on Incidental Mortality of Seabirds. D. Sea turtles - Amendments to the Consolidated Resolution on bycatch.	A. Review at Bycatch Working Group in early 2006 and at next IATTC Annual Meeting 2006 B. Review at Bycatch Working Group in early 2006 and at next IATTC Annual Meeting 2006 C. Review at Bycatch Working Group in early 2006 and at next IATTC Annual Meeting 2006 D. Review at Bycatch Working Group in early 2006 and at next IATTC Annual Meeting 2006	A. Extends the requirements of the resolution until January 2007	A. Review of Annual Report. B. Review of Annual Report. C. Review of Annual Report. D. Review of Annual Report.	A. The resolution requires full retention of juvenile tunas and non-target species of fish, and provides for a review of compliance on the full retention measure (by flag state or entity). B. The resolution bans shark finning and also aims to improve information about sharks in EPO fisheries. The Shark Resolution mandates much needed shark data collection and assessment programs while encouraging research into shark nursery areas and ways to avoid incidental bycatch of sharks. C. The resolution requires to implement the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries if they have not yet done so. All are encouraged to collect and voluntarily provide available information on interactions with seabirds, including incidental catches in all fisheries under the purview of the IATTC. D. Amendments to the Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch to further elaborate sea turtle interaction requirements.
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B. Research needs

BB1	Continue research on the effects of purse seine encirclement on dolphin populations in the ETP	Continuing research on fishery effects, stock structure, and gear for bycatch reduction. Updated abundance estimates for two stocks of ETP dolphins. Contract awarded to the IATTC to collect data on small vessel sets.	Given the 1.3M cut in funding enacted for FY06 (in relation to the President's request), a ship-board monitoring cruise will be conducted but little else will be possible this FY. There will be very limited follow-up to past research on cow-calf separation and stock structure, and the proposed re-initiation of life history sampling will not receive funding from NMFS. Further, it will not be possible to continue research on small vessel sets and gear for bycatch reduction.	If sufficient funding is made available, we will conduct a coastal ecosystem survey in conjunction with other AIDCP Parties to collect information on the coastal stock of spotted dolphin, other affected dolphin stocks, and various components of the ETP ecosystem	Results of the research studies will be analyzed and reported.	1. Complete planning for four-month ETP monitoring cruise 2. Complete first two months (Aug-Sept) of four-month monitoring cruise
BB2	Develop technology, such as sorting grids, for releasing juvenile tunas in the purse seine fishery. Develop technologies and assess feasibility for the identification of species and size composition in schools of tuna prior to setting.	NMFS and IATTC staff convened a bycatch reduction workshop to discuss technological solutions to reducing bycatch.	A second workshop was planned but now will not be convened this FY. Several proposals identified at the 2005 workshop will await future funding to be further developed.	Further work on this issue will be dependant on funding.	There is nothing further planned in this item due to funding constraints.	No milestones possible as no work will be funded this FY

BB3	Conduct quantification and trend studies of finfish bycatch in the DGN fishery.	Finfish bycatch data collected by NMFS contracted fishery observers. 20% coverage of fleet. Database available for analysis. Discussing with SWFSC-La Jolla the need and logistics to obtain length measurements for target and bycatch. Observer funds for this fishery covered under MMPA funding through PRD.	MMPA funding secured for 2006 season to maintain 20% observer coverage in the fishery. EFP under consideration by PFMC that would open up previously closed leatherback sea turtle area north of Pt. Sur. 100% observer coverage mandatory for DGN trips in this EFP should it pass. Finfish bycatch records will be compiled and analyzed.	Ongoing	Quarterly and Annual Reports to SWFSC and PFMC mgmt and advisory teams.	
BB4	Characterize habitat and spatial and temporal dynamics of different life stages of various bycatch species, so avoidance techniques or possible area closures could be developed.	Pilot observer data collected in several HMS FMP gear types (e.g., albacore troll). No analysis to date.	HMS FMP Observer Protocol finalized, pilot observer data to be collected in the HMS CPFV (Rec Charter vessels). DGN, Albacore troll, and pelagic LL observer trips and data to be collected. Plan for taking lengths to be discussed and potentially implemented to meet objective.	Ongoing	Quarterly and Annual Reports to SWFSC and PFMC mgmt and advisory teams.	
BB5	Conduct a feasibility study on implementing Performance Standards. This system would reward fishers for decreasing their bycatch and/or bycatch mortality.	No plan in 2005 to address this goal.	Longline EFP, if approved, has a stated goal of reducing bycatch vs. DGN fishing.	Potential switch of DGN fishermen to LL fishery and bycatch savings a stated goal.	: Quarterly and Annual Reports to SWFSC and PFMC mgmt and advisory teams.	

BB6	In addition to conducting studies of the socio economic effects of effort reduction programs, the effects on bycatch should also be considered.	No plan in 2005 to address this goal.	LL EFP would investigate the above questions.	Ongoing	Quarterly and Annual Reports to SWFSC and PFMC mgmt and advisory teams.	
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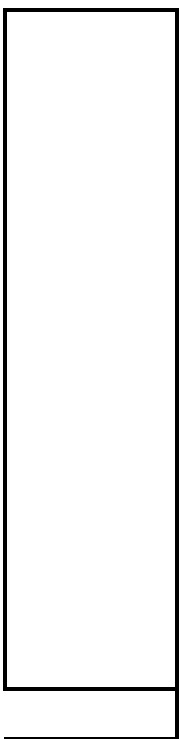
D. Education and outreach efforts

D1	Increase efforts to educate the public about changes in the dolphin-safe designation for canned tuna, and NMFS' finding that the tuna purse seine industry practice of encircling dolphins to catch tuna has no significant adverse impact on dolphin populations in the ETP.	A website is being developed by the SWR which will inform the public of the tuna tracking and verification process and highlight the activities conducted to verify the dolphin-safe status of labeled tuna.	The tuna tracking and verification website will be linked with the SWR webpage.	The website will continue to be updated with activities conducted by the tuna tracking and verification program.	Completion of the webpage.	New tuna tracking and verification website.
D2	Support formation and activities of the newly proposed Scientific Advisory Board to the AIDCP.	The SAB met twice during 2005, and agreed to reinstate a life history sampling study and was supportive of a coastal spotted dolphin survey.	: The SAB will meet in June 2006 where progress on research items listed on the SAB workplan will be discussed.	The SAB will convene at least one meeting.	Through the SAB workplan.	Report on research progress on ETP dolphins, especially regarding monitoring cruise and cow-calf separation.
D3	Continue skipper workshops for participants in the large vessel ETP purse seine fishery.	Two workshops were held at the SWR office to train ETP fishing captains on the current regulations and dolphin- safe techniques.	Workshops will be held as needed.	Workshops will be held as needed.	Workshops completed.	Conduct three workshops (April, August, and December).

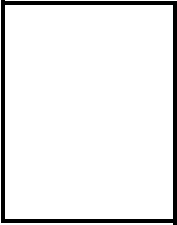
Milestone Completion Date

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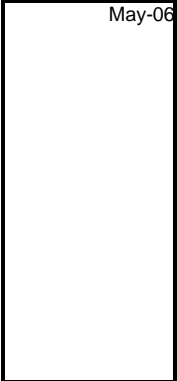
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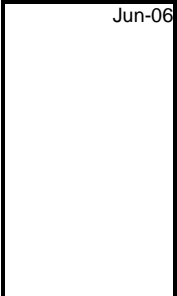
1. Complete by July 1, 2006 2. Complete by Sept 30, 2006
N/A



May-06



Jun-06



31-Dec-06

